

**LIBRARY OF MICHIGAN  
BOARD OF TRUSTEES MEETING  
January 26, 2007  
10:00 a.m.**

**Call to Order**

The meeting of the Library of Michigan Board of Trustees was called to order at 10:00 a.m., on Friday, January 26, 2007, at the Library of Michigan, by Linda Farynk, Vice-Chair.

**Attendance**

Members Present: William Anderson, Barbara Bonge (alternate for Chief Justice Clifford Taylor), Linda Farynk, Charles Myers, Nancy Robertson, Nancy Skowronski, Michael Smith, Francis "Bus" Spaniola, Representative Aldo Vagnozzi

Members Absent: Representative Fran Amos, B. Denise Bartlett, Senator Irma Clark-Coleman, Senator Tom George, Elaine Logan

Staff Present: Sue Davidsen, Elaine Harrison, Sheryl Mase, Judith Moore, Jennifer Sipe (recording secretary)

Visitors: Roger Ashley, George Bishop, Jill Costello (representing Senator George), Gretchen Couraud, Ken Miller, Jim Seidl

**Agenda**

Today's agenda was amended, moving the DPA Grant Update and the Report on Activities of the School Library Media Center Issues Group from New Business to immediately following Approval of Minutes. This will better accommodate today's guests. In addition, a MeL ReMix preview was added to the agenda.

BUS SPANIOLA MOVED APPROVAL OF THE AMENDED AGENDA. MIKE SMITH SECONDED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Minutes of  
December 8, 2006  
Meeting**

BILL ANDERSON MOVED APPROVAL OF THE DECEMBER 8, 2006, BOARD MINUTES, AS PRESENTED. NANCY SKOWRONSKI SECONDED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**MeL ReMix**

The Board and visitors moved to the Great Lakes Conference Room. Sue Davidsen demonstrated MeL ReMix. The new MeL was redesigned to provide improved search capabilities and resources. Good response has been received from testers in the general public. Bill Anderson indicated how pleased he is that MeL is provided free to Michigan users. Current plans are for the new MeL to go live on February 20<sup>th</sup>. Linda Farynk noted that in addition to Sue Davidsen, Sonya Norris, working in conjunction with two people at the Michigan Library Consortium, were the developers. This was a six-month project.

**Digitization Project**

Steve Rossio of the Portage District Library gave a presentation on their digitization project. The project digitized photos from the collection of

John Todd (1921-1981), an aerial photographer from Kalamazoo County. Mr. Todd's daughter donated the 13,000 negatives and 3,000 photographs in this highly valued collection to the Portage District Library.

**School Library**  
**Media Center**  
**Issues Group**  
**Update**

Nancy Robertson introduced George Bishop, Media Specialist with the Ovid-Elsie Schools. George presented a report to Board members on the importance of school library media centers, and on troubled media centers both in Michigan and nationally. Media centers are not only encountering budget cuts, they are being completely eliminated in some cases. Media Centers are very important to the education of our children. Yet library school students who have taken the extra step and received certification as a media specialist are entering a field where the climate is not good and wrong decisions are being made. A 2003 study was done which showed how vital school library media centers are to MEAP scores. George thanked the Library of Michigan for MeL and MeL Cat, stressing that it is the single most powerful resource we currently have. Michigan needs school library media centers, which help to produce a bright, energetic workforce. Mr. Bishop thanked Nancy for pulling together this school issues group. The group has worked together to revise the "Guidelines for Michigan School Library Media Center Programs" and to deal with the current media center crisis in the state. Approval of these draft guidelines by the LM Board of Trustees is pivotal, George stated. What LM does affects all libraries in this state. Michigan cannot let its schools and students fail. Board approval would make a significant difference.

Sheryl Mase reviewed the wiki created by LM and the school group, as well as the draft guidelines. The draft guidelines are also featured on the HAL Web site.

Roger Ashley provided a summary of the draft guidelines for Board members and visitors. Roger added that of Michigan's 537 major school districts, 50 do not have any type of school media program, adding that some existing media center programs are superb, presenting quite a range. Unfortunately, Michigan's children are receiving very different services, depending on where they live. Roger added that media centers make a major difference to children living in rural areas; without them they would not have Internet or MeL access. Making school superintendents aware of the guidelines is very important to Michigan's schools, and it is very helpful to have both the Library of Michigan and its Board support these guidelines. School superintendents are key in deciding the apportionment of education dollars. Michigan's young people should be a concern to all of the people of Michigan. It is hoped that there will also be strong support of these draft guidelines from the Department of Education and from the Michigan Library Association.

Linda Farynk added that it is important to get the support of school principals, as well as superintendents, thus gaining community support.

Nancy Robertson stressed the importance of well-staffed, well-funded school library media centers. The newly revised document contains standards similar to the QSAC standards with levels of 'basic,' 'medium' and 'advanced.' MeL will also be a part of the marketing piece designed for the school group.

Roger further stated that the program "No Child Left Behind" is up for renewal. This is a hot topic, with some interesting changes in viewpoints. New legislation is expected regarding school media centers. First Lady Laura Bush is an important advocate. Board members were asked to contact their legislators, congressmen and U.S. delegates.

Michael Smith reported on a new Wayne State University program to train some of their students as digital librarians. WSU received an IMLS grant for this purpose.

Barbara Bonge shared an article on "Best Careers 2007," which showed librarians among the top 25 careers.

The group returned to the Board Room.

#### **Legislator Reports**

Representative Vagnozzi has been appointed as Chair of the HAL Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee. He looks forward to this appointment and noted that Michigan is facing hard times. More attempts will be made at publicizing the Library of Michigan and its services. Perhaps one way of doing this would be television spots in the districts, thus playing up libraries.

Jill Costello, representing Senator Tom George, reported that the Senator was pleased to be reappointed to the LM Board of Trustees. Jill stated that Friday is Senator George's day to work at the hospital as an anesthesiologist, so Jill attends for him and reports back. Senator George wants very much to be helpful to Michigan's libraries. Jill continued, speaking about all of the new Senators. She would like to follow up with them and connect them to the LM Board of Trustees; to MeL; to schools; and to the Michigan Library Association.

#### **State Librarian's Report**

Due to time constraints, Nancy indicated she would send her State Librarian goals in the next Board packet. At the March meeting, she would be happy to answer any questions Board members have.

Nancy attended the mid-winter Chief Officers of State Library Agencies (COSLA) meeting in Seattle in January. Discussions centered on the reauthorization of LSTA; Gates; and the NLS program. Nancy met

privately with Jerry Kline of III, the head of the company that produces the software that underlies MeL Cat.

13 State Librarian Town Meetings have now been scheduled for March and April. These meetings will be a means of gathering information on libraries' needs statewide, and Nancy will report on them at the next Board meeting. Information will also be shared with MLA, MLC and MAME.

Upcoming programs include MeL ReMix being launched on February 20<sup>th</sup>; Michigan Notable Books; Michigan Reads. These are very exciting programs; Nancy will update the Board at the March meeting.

Sheryl Mase distributed the 2006 edition of the Michigan Public Libraries Data Digest to Board members. This publication contains many useful statistics, and more can be provided upon request.

#### **LM Foundation Report**

Judith Moore distributed a printed report to Board members, and discussed 'endowments,' 'permanently restricted funds' and 'temporarily restricted funds' held within the Library of Michigan Foundation. Judith noted that LMF has a 5% spending policy. Nancy and the LMF Board are currently working very hard to develop major gifts and are coming up with good ideas. LMF is taking a look, along with a consultant, at funding the marketing plan for MeL.

The Night for Notables has been scheduled for 7:00pm, Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, at the Library of Michigan. This should be a wonderful evening, beginning with a reception at the Governor's residence by invitation only. The Governor is enthused about building up the library in the residence for guests and future Governors, and some of the Notables authors will be donating their books. Guest speakers include former Governor William G. Milliken, George Weeks and Dave Dempsey.

Judith met with the head of marketing and department heads from the Borders Book Store in Ann Arbor recently. Borders will become a partner with the Library of Michigan for the Notables program, and the terms of the partnership are currently being worked out.

Target has provided \$85,000 to sponsor Michigan Reads! They will be the sole sponsor of this worthwhile program. The Michigan Reads! event will be held in the fall of 2007.

The financial support of the LM Board of Trustees is always welcome.

Barb Bonge inquired about the Library of Michigan and how it is doing fund-wise. Nancy reported that we are in a holding pattern until we know more about the Governor's proposal. Bill Anderson added that

HAL and the State of Michigan are in fiscal crisis. All departments were required to submit a reduction plan for 2008. There will be a budget announcement from the Governor on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

**Partnership**  
**Reports**  
**Cooperatives**

Ken Miller presented the cooperative report. The cooperative directors are pleased to be working with the Library of Michigan Foundation on the Notables program. Cooperative libraries will be hosting tours of the Notables authors.

Most of the libraries have now received their PAC HUG computers. Details are being worked out.

Ken stressed the importance of no cuts to state aid; this is a serious concern to the cooperatives. Cooperative directors also have expressed concern over the growing number of unserved populations in Michigan and townships that are unwilling to adequately support library service.

**MLA**

Gretchen Couraud presented the Michigan Library Association report. Gretchen added that she too believes libraries are critical to the economy. She is currently talking to legislators about this concern, as well as talking about end users, MeL and about how constituents are being impacted, adding that people trust their libraries. MLA's new lobbyist is also addressing these issues. Michigan's citizens should be communicating with their legislators. Gretchen added that individual libraries would have to spend \$193 million each for the Michigan eLibrary services the Library of Michigan is providing with a cost to LM of \$5 million. MeL is invaluable.

The Board was reminded of MLA's Legislative Day; it will be tied into this year's MLA conference and is scheduled for November 6, 2007. There will be a reception that evening. MLA will also be doing other advocacy activities in the spring in conjunction with ALA Legislative Day.

**MLC**

MLC's report was included in the Board packet. Randy Dykhuis was unable to attend today's meeting due to MLC's strategic planning day. Nancy noted MLC's assistance to LM with databases, as well as with MeL Cat.

**MAME**

Roger Ashley distributed MAME's report to Board members, along with the fall 2006 edition of Media Spectrum.

**Draft Guidelines**  
**Discussion**

Board members returned to the discussion of the revised Guidelines for Michigan School Library Media Center Programs.

BUS SPANIOLA MOVED TO ENDORSE THE GUIDELINES FOR MICHIGAN SCHOOL LIBRARY MEDIA CENTER PROGRAMS. BARBARA BONGE SECONDED. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

**Old Business**

No old business was presented.

**New Business**

Board members were invited to participate in the orientation/tour being presented for the two new LM Board of Trustees immediately following lunch.

**Public  
Participation**

Visitors introduced themselves.

**Next Meeting**

The next meeting of the board is Friday, March 23, 2007, at 10:00 a.m., in the Board Room.

**Adjournment**

NANCY SKOWRONSKI MOVED TO ADJOURN TODAY'S MEETING. MICHAEL SMITH SECONDED.

The meeting adjourned at 12 noon.

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Linda Farynk, Vice-Chair

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Nancy R. Robertson, State Librarian